

COTS Partners:

You recently received an invitation from Geno Olmi to participate in the upcoming COTS workshop (mid-November in Charleston, SC). As mentioned in the invitation, one of our topics for discussion will be how to provide greater access to the observational data collected by COTS partners to a wider group of potential users. I'd like to take a minute to elaborate on this idea.

CSC has asked the National Data Buoy Center (NDBC) and the Center for Operational Oceanographic Products and Services (CO-OPS) to work with the COTS partners to:

- Move COTS real time data into the federal data stream through a standard process
- Establish a QA/QC process for non-federal data as they are ingested into federal data streams

As we push forward on data integration and IOOS implementation, the ability to show real progress is of paramount importance. Making sure that COTS data is available to a wider set of users, including the federal government, contributes to that progress. In addition, the COTS partners will continue to be on the leading edge of the data integration and management efforts that are required to make IOOS a success.

Many regionally-based observing systems, including some of the COTS partners, are already working with NDBC and/or CO-OPS to accomplish this. The Gulf of Maine Ocean Observing System (GoMOOS), the West Florida Coastal Ocean Monitoring and Prediction System (COMPS), and the Carolinas Coastal Ocean Observing and Prediction System (Caro-COOPS) have arrangements that make their data available to these NOAA programs.

We expect to have representatives from NDBC and CO-OPS at the COTS workshop to participate in the discussion of this initiative. The COTS workshop will serve as an introduction, but more detailed interaction and work will be required following the workshop. CSC has made funds available to NDBC and CO-OPS to hire staff to work with CSC and the COTS partners to achieve the desired goals. The goals are:

- Short term – make selected COTS partner real time data sets available through NOAA data portals such as the NDBC and CO-OPS Web sites
- Long term – develop an IOOS/DMAC-compliant method of making QA/QC'd data available to multiple users

Both NDBC and CO-OPS have specific methods they currently use to ingest non-federal data and these methods will be discussed with the COTS partners. Each office (including CSC) will also work with the COTS partners to explore additional technologies that follow IOOS/DMAC guidelines for transferring data. To begin this process, we have attached a brief template regarding your data management methods and practices. Please take a moment to briefly provide some background on the categories specified in the template.

These discussions (post workshop) will require significant coordination between the COTS partners, CSC, NDBC, and CO-OPS. We would like to begin the discussion at the workshop, with the understanding that we will only scrape the surface of the collaboration at that time.

I hope this gives a bit more insight into this effort. We look forward to hearing your thoughts on this prior to, during, and following the November workshop.

Best regards,

Jim Boyd